



# OSPREY NEWSLETTER

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## **WET AND WINDY WEATHER SPARES OSPREYS**

First, my apologies for the delay in preparing this edition of the newsletter. Fall is a busy season for Fish and Wildlife, with too many priorities and not enough time. However, the good news is that the wet and cool season did not have a negative effect on osprey nesting. The number of active nests increased from last year's 71 to 82 nests while the number of young increased from 82 to 109. While some locations were not productive, the season, overall, was very successful.

Several new sites were discovered, many atop cellular phone towers. This may prove to be a problem in the future and has merited numerous phone calls but is currently acceptable with the owners and leasees.

## **THANKS TO OUR COOPERATORS**

As always, we extend our thanks to the following cooperators who have given their time and efforts in monitoring the growing number of RI osprey nests: Janet Bryan, Steve Reinert, Mary Leito, Sophie Lewis, Bill Prescott, Tracy Silvia, Bill Dudek, Anne McMullen, Ken Weber, Henry Tarbox, Zenid Bliss, Tomas Lolio, Roy Dubbs, Martha Heald, Barbara Bucci, Bill McEneaney, Niels West, Matt Rehor, Deb Eccleston, George Clauer, Gail McEntee, Cherly Heal, Chris Powell, Audubon Society, USFWS, TNC. If we made any errors in reporting your data, please do not hesitate to call and correct the problem. If you would like to be an active cooperator, please contact the Division for sites and volunteer forms and remember.....

### **Gentle Reminder**

**Cooperators, if you have not submitted your volunteer hour sheets please do so now. The hours 'donated' are considered an in-kind donation. Federal money is given at a rate of 3 to 1 for donations. The money is used to support and expand programs within the Division.**

## **OSPREY MORTALITIES AND INCIDENTS**

Two adult ospreys were hit by cars early in the season. One was near the White Rock nest in Westerly and one from the Galilee area. Neither incident affected nested pairs and both sites were still

successful. Two more young were found dead below their nests, one at the ACI in Cranston and one at the Great Swamp. Additional mortalities were reported but were not identified as ospreys upon inspection.

#### **NEW POLES AND PLATFORMS**

Once again, Narragansett Electric assisted the Division in and resiting platforms in areas of conflict. Further discussions were held to retrofit electric lines and equipment to prevent future electrocutions. Thanks also to Weekapaug Golf Course for their interest in erecting a platform.

Anyone interested in putting up new poles may contact the Division for guidance. We will assist and give advice for best placement and specifications of these poles for those who are interested. As in the past, the appropriate permits need to be acquired for pole placement within coastal or freshwater wetlands.

Lori Gibson, editor

*"It is the policy of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management to offer its services and accommodations to all orderly persons, and, as required, to all properly licensed persons, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, or handicap. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, facility, or if you desire further information, please write to the Office for Equal Opportunity, US Department of the interior, Office of the Secretary, Washington, DC 20240."*

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